

**Amendments to the specification:**

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 5, line 22 with the following paragraph:

The electromechanical portion 114 of valve assembly 100 includes a frame or case 146 operably attached to housing 112 of hydraulic portion 116. Case 146 is configured to receive a plunger 156 and a rod 180 therein. Plunger 156 is configured having a spring end 152. Rod and rod 180 is are configured having a valve end 150 and a stop end 152. Valve end 150 is configured to provide a means for urging ball 128 from a normally closed position to allow fluid to flow from supply port 132 to exhaust ports 144 and control ports 140 via chamber 126. Spring Stop end 152 +50 is configured to make contact with a spring 154. As will be discussed in detail below, spring 154 is employed to provide a preload on plunger 156 by providing a biasing force for maintaining the plunger assembly 156 in a first position.